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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

1 JUN 1976

Dr. James E. O'Neill
Deputy Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Service
Seventh Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408

Dear Dr. O'Neill:

This responds to your letter of 15 January 1976 regarding the appeal from Harold Weisberg for certain documents from the Records of the Warren Commission which were denied to him.

Pursuant to guidance in your second paragraph, we have responded directly to Mr. Weisberg on the three documents originally classified by the CIA, as shown by the enclosed information copy with the two releasable documents.

In regard to document #1 of your third paragraph, the Top Secret memorandum of Coleman and Slawson to Rankin (undated), we have reviewed the 28 select pages thereof as transmitted to us and have reached the following determinations:

a. Certain additional portions were found releasable, as can be seen from the enclosed sanitized pages which may be provided to the requester.

b. The original form of the document must remain classified, although the level of classification has been downgraded from Top Secret to Secret.

c. The 19 specific passages of the document which are deleted from the sanitized pages are as follows, with exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3) of the FOIA applying in every case:

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>LINES</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>LINES</u>
17	14&15	97	24-27
20	20-23	98	1
77	18-20	100	16-25



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<u>PAGE</u>	<u>LINES</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>LINES</u>
86	7-13	101	19-21
92	4-7	102	2-8
92	11-13	104	5-14
92	19-20	104	22&23
92	24&25	105	Insert 21
93	15-18	106	10
93	22-24		

In that same third paragraph of your letter, your document #2.a., memorandum of 23 July 1964 (no names given), must be denied release in its entirety, with FOIA exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(5) applying. The classification of the document, however, has been downgraded from Top Secret to Confidential, as shown on the document returned herewith.

Also in your third paragraph, your document #2.b. has been found releasable in large part, with FOIA exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3) applying to the deletion of one sentence in the first paragraph - the only deletion necessary.

Finally, we have reviewed the following items shown below as listed in your fourth paragraph, and have found no reason for denying release:

1. J. Lee Rankin to Richard Helms, 6 March 1964.
2. Memorandum of Slawson to Jenner, Liebelier, Ball and Belin, 9 March 1964.
3. Memorandum of Coleman and Slawson to Stern, 12 March 1964.
4. Memorandum of Slawson to Rankin, 15 July 1964.
5. Memorandum of Slawson to Coleman, 17 July 1964.
6. Cover letter of Commission Document #451, J. Edgar Hoover to J. Lee Rankin, 6 March 1964.

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7. Cover letter of Commission Document #434, J. Edgar Hoover to J. Lee Rankin, 28 February 1964; and first page of same document, "Lee Harvey Oswald Internal Security - R - Cuba", 28 February 1964.

All of the documents transmitted to us by your letter are returned herewith, marked as appropriate from our review. While we recognize that the documents were sent to the Agency as a result of appeal by Mr. Weisberg of the initial denial by NARS, we also recognize that this was the first review by the Agency under the FOIA on most of these. Therefore, we suggest that you advise Mr. Weisberg of his right to appeal the above decisions of Mr. Charles A. Briggs, Chief of Services Staff, to deny in whole or in part. Should he decide to do so, he should send such appeal to the CIA's Information Review Committee via the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Gene F. Wilson
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosures

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